Scholarships to OBC students

555. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released the funds for pre-matric and post-matric scholarships scheme, hostel construction scheme and other welfare scheme for OBC during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated under the above schemes to the States/UTs and NGOs during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State/UT-wise allocation of funds under the scheme for welfare of OBCs are not made. However, funds released to States/UTs and NGOs during the current financial year under these schemes is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Funds released to States/UTs and NGOs for the Welfare of OBC students

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)
1.	Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs	16.30
2.	Post-matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs	18.26
3.	Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls	10.72
4	Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations working for the welfare of OBCs	1.59
5.	Loan Scheme of NBCFDC	4.00

Rehabilitation of weaker sections of society

556. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any national plan has been formulated by Government for rehabilitation of weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the districts identified for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the funds allotted for this purpose, during the last three years and the achievements made so far in this regard, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No Sir. However, the Government is implementing various schemes for the development of weaker sections of the society.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Grievances redressal camps for minorities

557. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Minorities has started holding grievances redressal camps at the State capitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such camps held in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of the results achieved from these camps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The National Commission for Minorities has started holding Review Meetings with the Officers of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations at the State Capitals since July, 2004. A Review Meeting was held at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on 20.8.2004. Of the 16 cases reviewed, 8 cases have been settled.

Welfare of senior citizens

558. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of senior citizens (above 60 years) in the country and its percentage of the total population;